Problems of powerloom owners in Surat and Bhivandi

459. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Surat and Bhivandi powerloom owners are facing problems and waiting for helping hand from the Central Government;

(b) whether Governm[illegible]ve assured them in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Representations have been received by the Government of India regarding various problems being faced by the powerloom industry. Government have initiated several steps to improve and strengthen the powerloom industry. Modernisation of powerloom service centres, setting of Computer Aided Centre and Group Insurance Scheme for powerloom workers are such main steps taken in this direction. The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) launched on 1.4.99 for modernisation of textile and jute industries also covers the powerloom sector. The TUFS has also been liberalised, particularly, for the powerloom sector. It is an on-going exercise. An apex body, *viz.*, the All India Powerloom Board (AIPB) under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Textiles, periodically reviews the powerloom sector and appropriate actions are taken. The Powerloom owners in Bhiwandi and Surat are also facing problems regarding the high power tariff for the powerloom sector and are demanding reduced power tariff at concessional rates for their manufacturing operations. The matter has been taken up with the major textile producing state governments to consider review and rationalisation of power tariff to encourage productivity and growth in the textile industry.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Revival plan for sick textile mills of NTC

460. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a large number of textile mills under NTC have been